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S&H Form: (02/05)

REPLY/AMENDMENT FEE TRANSMITTAL

Attorney Docket No.	1614.1163
Application Number	09/841,038
Filing Date	April 25, 2001
First Named Inventor	Fujio MORITA
Group Art Unit	2162
Examiner Name	Jean B. Fleurantin

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

500.00

FEE CALCULATION (fees effective 12/08/04)

CLAIMS AS AMENDED	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid For	Number Extra	Rate	Calculations
TOTAL CLAIMS		- =	0	X \$ 50.00 =	\$ 0.00
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS		- =	0	X \$ 200.00 =	0.00
Since an Official Action set an <u>original</u> due date of , petition is hereby made for an extension to cover the date this reply is filed for which the requisite fee is enclosed (1 month (\$120)); (2 months (\$450)); (3 months (\$1,020)); (4 months (\$1,590)); (5 months (\$2,160)):					
If an Appeal Brief is enclosed, add (\$500.00)					500.00
If Statutory Disclaimer under Rule 20(d) is enclosed, add fee (\$130.00)					
Information Disclosure Statement (Rule 1.17(p)) (\$180.00)					
Total of above Calculations =					\$ 500.00
Reduction by 50% for filing by small entity (37 CFR 1.9, 1.27 & 1.28)					
TOTAL FEES DUE =					\$ 500.00

(1) If entry (1) is less than entry (2), entry (3) is "0".

(2) If entry (2) is less than 20, change entry (2) to "20".

(4) If entry (4) is less than entry (5), entry (6) is "0".

(5) If entry (5) is less than 3, change entry (5) to "3".

METHOD OF PAYMENT

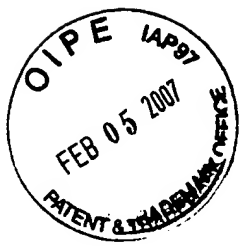
- ☒ Check enclosed as payment.
- ☐ Charge "TOTAL FEES DUE" to the Deposit Account No. below.
- ☐ No payment is enclosed.

GENERAL AUTHORIZATION

- ☒ If the above-noted "AMOUNT ENCLOSED" is not correct, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fees necessary to:
- Deposit Account No. 19-3935
- Deposit Account Name STAAS & HALSEY LLP
- ☒ The Commissioner is also authorized to credit any overpayments or charge any additional fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 (filing fees) or 37 CFR 1.17 (processing fees) during the prosecution of this application, including any related application(s) claiming benefit hereof pursuant to 35 USC § 120 (e.g., continuations/divisionals/CIPs under 37 CFR 1.53(b) and/or continuations/divisionals/CPAs under 37 CFR 1.53(d)) to maintain pendency hereof or of any such related application.

SUBMITTED BY: STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Typed Name	Luminita A. Todor	Reg. No.	57,639
Signature		Date	Feb. 5, 2007



Docket No.: 1614.1163

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Fujio MORITA

Serial No. 09/841,038

Group Art Unit: 2162

Confirmation No. 6609

Filed: April 25, 2001

Examiner: Jean B. Fleurantin

For: SEARCH SUPPORT DEVICE AND METHOD, AND RECORDING MEDIUM STORING
PROGRAM FOR COMPUTER TO CARRY OUT OPERATION WITH SAID SEARCH
SUPPORT DEVICE

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents

Commissioner for Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In a Notice of Appeal filed November 13, 2006, Applicants appealed the Examiner's August 10, 2006 Office Action finally rejecting claims 1-12. A Pre-Appeal Conference Request was filed concurrently with the Notice of Appeal. The Notice of Panel Decision from the Pre-Appeal Brief Review mailed on January 05, 2007, indicated that the claim rejections were upheld, and set a 1-month period from the Notice's date for filing the appeal brief, which accordingly is due February 05, 2007. Submitted herewith are an Appeal Brief, and the requisite fees set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 41.20(b).

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Fujitsu Limited, the assignee of this application.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant, appellant's legal representative, and the assignee do not know of any prior or pending appeals, interferences or judicial proceedings which may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on, the Board's decision in this appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 have been rejected and are on appeal.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

An Amendment after the date of filing an appeal pursuant to 37 C.F.R § 41.31(a)(1) through (a)(3) and prior to the date filing a brief was filed pursuant to § 41.37 was filed on February 1, 2007. The amendment is admissible under 37 C.F.R § 1.116 because the claim amendments therein do not significantly alter the scope of the claims and place the claims at least into a better form for appeal.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

A. Claim 1

Independent claim 1 is directed to a search support device, implemented on a client computer (see, for example, 1 in FIG. 4). The search support device registers an address indicating a location of information accessible on a network (see, for example, page 19, lines 1-18). The search support device includes a search unit and a registration unit. The search unit (see, for example, the arithmetic operation unit 8 in FIG.4) determines a hierarchical category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu (see FIG. 8 and page 19, line 28 through page 21, line 11). The registration unit (see, for example, the memory unit 7 in FIG. 4) registers an address in the hierarchical category (see, for example the control table 18 in FIG. 6). Claim 1 further specifies that predetermined search information is registered for each category. The predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network (see, for example, page 16, lines 19-31). Claim 1 also recites that when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category (see, for

example 25, in FIG. 6, and page 16, line 36 through page 17, line 19).

B. Claim 3

Independent claim 3 is directed to a search support method, implemented on a client computer, by which an address indicating a location of information accessible on a network (see, for example, FIG. 5). The method includes determining a hierarchical category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu (see, for example, S20-27 in FIG. 5, described from page 13, line 34 through page 17, line 7). The method further includes registering an address in the hierarchal category, wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network (see, for example, S30-S37 in FIG. 5, described from page 17 line 20 through page 19 line 18). Claim 3 then specifies that when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category (see, for example, S38-S42 in FIG. 5, described from page 19, line 19 through page 21, line 11).

C. Claim 4

Claim 4 is directed to a search support device, implemented on a client computer (see, for example, 1 in FIG. 4), in which a search process for an address indicating a location of desired information on a network is requested based on search information associated with the information. The device includes a category menu storage unit, and a search information generating unit. The category menu storage unit (see, for example 4, 5, and 7 in FIG. 4) stores a category menu in which predetermined hierarchical categories are listed up, as exemplary illustrated in FIG. 15. The search information generating unit (see, for example, 8 in FIG. 4) generates search information associated with a hierarchical category selected from the category menu. The predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network (see, for example, FIG. 9, and page 17, line 35 to page 18, line 20).

Further claim 4 specifies that when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category (see, for example 25, in FIG. 6, and page 16, line 36

through page 17, line 19).

D. Claim 8

Claim 8 is directed to a search support method, implemented on a client computer, by which a search process for an address indicating a location of desired information on a network is requested based on search information associated with the desired information. The method recited in claim 8 includes storing a category menu in which predetermined hierarchical categories are listed up (see, for example, S51 in FIG. 10, and page 22, lines 5-10). The method also includes generating search information associated with a hierarchical category selected from the category menu (see, for example, S52, S53, and S58 of FIG. 10 and FIG. 11). Claim 8 specifies that the predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category (see, for example FIG. 9, and page 17, line 24 to page 18 line 20).

E. Claim 9

Claim 9 is directed to a recording medium which stores a program for a computer to perform an operation with a search support device, implemented on a client computer (see, for example 4, 5, in FIG. 4) that registered an address indicating a location of accessible information on a network. The program includes a procedure for classifying the address in accordance with a hierarchical category related to information that can be accessed at the address (see, for example, S70, S71, S62, and S27 of FIG. 13). The program includes a procedure for registering the address classified in accordance with the hierarchical category (see, S76-S79, i.e. right column of FIG. 13). Claim 9 specifies that predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and that the registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords (see, for example, FIG. 15).

F. Claim 10

Claim 10 is directed to a recording medium which stores a program for a computer to perform an operation with a search support device, implemented on a client computer, that

requests a search process for an address indicating a location of desired information on a desired network based on search information associated with the desired information (see, for example 5 in FIG. 4). The program includes a procedure for storing a category menu in which predetermined hierarchical categories are listed (see, S90 and S87 of FIG. 16). Further the program includes a procedure for generating search information associated with a hierarchical category selected from the category menu (see, for example, S86 of FIG. 16).

Claim 10 further specifies that the predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and, that the registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords (see, for example, FIG. 15).

G. Claim 12

Claim 12 is directed to a method, implemented on a client computer, for searching for an address of desired information on a network based on search information associated with the desired information (see, for example, FIG. 17). The method includes registering predetermined search information used as a keyword for searching for the address of the desired information on the network for each of a plurality of hierarchical categories into which information is classified (see, for example, S72 in FIG. 17). The method further includes searching for the address of the desired information based on the registered predetermined search information when a hierarchical category is selected (see, for example, S75 in FIG. 17).

According to claim 12, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category (see, for example, S91-93 in FIG. 17).

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The only ground of rejection to be reviewed is the rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the "Related Art" section of the specification in view of the Japanese Patent No. 10031683A to Haruhiro ("Haruhiro").

VII. ARGUMENT

A. Review of the Prior Art

1. Background Art Section of the Specification

The "Background Art" section describes search engines and search processes as performed prior to the date of this invention. The categories used by the search engines described therein are predetermined by the homepage of the respective search engine. As a result, the search cannot be carried out using categories named and organized according to the user's needs.

The user also had to use predetermined characters for each keyword, because otherwise, he would not have been able to search the homepage containing desired information.

If the user did not use the predetermined characters for a search keyword, he had to repeatedly input a search keyword and repeat the search process, which results in a waste of resources.

2. Japanese Patent 10031683A to Haruhiro

Haruhiro is directed to an URL (Uniform Resource Locator) information database in which WWW servers are hierarchically organized in groups. A retrieval server collects URL information of the lower higher hierarchy server via the upper level servers. The lower level servers in Haruhiro store "large [volumes] of data" (see, [0039]) like web pages content and not bookmarks, i.e. network location information. That is, Haruhiro's storage of web-pages is hierarchically organized in the groups of WWW servers is fundamentally different from storing addresses indicating a location of information accessible on a network in categories hierarchically organized.

B. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In Office Actions dated January 12, 2006, and August 10, 2006, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the "Background Art" section of the specification in view of Japanese Patent No. 10031683A to Haruhiro ("Haruhiro").

1. Claims 1-2

Claim 1 is directed to a search support device including a search unit and a register unit.

A. According to claim 1, the search unit determines "a hierarchical category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu." In the Office Action mailed on August 10, 2006, it is alleged that the search unit as above is disclosed by FIG. 1 and the following paragraph (page 2, lines 26-32) of the specification:

Referring now to FIGS. 1 to 3B, the processes for searching for a homepage supposedly containing desired information with a search engine and registering the bookmark for the homepage will be described. FIG. 1 is a flowchart of a series of processes for homepage search and bookmark registration. FIGS. 2A to 3B show examples of browser screens displayed on a display unit.

Applicants respectfully submit that FIG. 1, the indicated paragraph and the entire "Background Art" section do not disclose the search unit as recited in claim 1 at least because there is no teaching or suggestion of "a hierarchical category of an address [...] based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu." The "Background Art" section describes a search process in incremental steps. According to the sequence of searching steps first 2A, then 2B, then 2C are displayed. Screens 2A-C are not displayed simultaneously as different categories. If an address is retained as a bookmark, the corresponding URL information is disposed merely as a list with a single level as illustrated in FIG. 3 A.

In contrast, according to claim 1, "predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network," see, for example, FIG. 8 in the specification. Further, claim 1 reiterates the hierarchical aspect by reciting the following feature "when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category."

That is, the prior art as disclosed in the "Background Art" section of the specification, does not teach or suggest an address indicating a location of information accessible on a network, being registered in a hierarchical manner and accessible via keywords hierarchically organized in menus.

Haruhiro fails to correct or compensate for the above-identified failure of the "Background Art" section in making obvious the features of claim 1. Haruhiro discloses a hierarchical hardware structure of servers. However, the physical organization of the URLs database in structured servers is not the same as hierarchical registration of addresses of network locations.

B. Combining the teaching from the "Background Art" section of the specification with Haruhiro's teachings is unjustified and does not amount to teaching or disclosing all the features of claim 1. As an alleged motivation, the Office Action mailed on August 10, 2006, states on page 3:

Such a modification [with the search device of Haruhiro] would

allow the teachings of Related Art to provide a retrieval system, which efficiently retrieving the URL information of a lot of World Wide Web servers connected to a W W W (see Haruhiro abstract).

Applicants respectfully submit that this rather conclusory assertion is clearly insufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. In other words, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection amounts to an improper hindsight reconstruction because the device of Haruhiro was already achieving the goals stated in the Abstract.

2. Claim 3

Claim 3 is directed to a search support method, which includes determining a hierarchical category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu. In the Office Action mailed on August 10, 2006, page 4, claim 3 rejection is supported by stating that "in addition to claim 1, Related Art discloses 'determining a category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record menu' (see page 4, line 5 to page S line 2)" (we assume that S stands for 5).

A. Claim 1 is directed to a device, while claim 3 is directed to a method. It is inappropriate and self-serving to ignore all the particular recitations in claim 3, which are different from claim 1, particularly when on page 8 of the same Office Action, Applicant's arguments for patentability of claims 3, 4, 8-10 and 12 are disregarded because of different recitations. Further, the Office Action fails to put forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness as required by 37 C.F.R §1.104(c)(2)¹.

B. The indicated portion of the "Background Art" section is reproduced below (emphasis supplied for further reference):

As described above, the bookmark registration is carried out for a homepage to be frequently accessed, so that an access can be easily made to the homepage.

However, the information including the URL address of each registered homepage (hereinafter referred to as "homepage information") is registered as the list of registered bookmarks as shown in FIG. 3A. As the number of registered bookmarks increases, it becomes more difficult to select a desired homepage. Also, homepages having similar information might be mistaken for each other.

In such a case, the user may categorize the registered bookmark information. However, such a process complicates the

¹ (2) In rejecting claims for want of novelty or for obviousness, the examiner must cite the best references at his or her command. When a reference is complex or shows or describes inventions other than that claimed by the applicant, the particular part relied on must be designated as nearly as practicable. The pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified.

overall operation.

Meanwhile, the categories used with the search engine are predetermined by the homepage of search engine. As a result, the search cannot be carried out using categories that are easy for the user to recognize.

Furthermore, the user needs to use predetermined characters for each keyword, otherwise the homepage containing desired information cannot be searched for.

If the user does not use the predetermined characters for a search keyword, the user repeatedly inputs a search keyword and repeats the search process, which results in a longer line using time and a higher line charge.

Applicant has difficulty understanding the relevance of the cited paragraph to the indicated feature. Moreover in a subset of the indicated paragraph, lines 15-22 of page 4 (emphasized above), Applicant makes it clear that registering the bookmarks as a single list is disadvantage, a problem which the invention tries to cure. Thus, the paragraph does not teach the feature the Office Action purports it does, but teaches away.

C. As per claim 3, the applied prior art fails to teach or suggest at least:

- “determining a **hierarchical category** of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu”; and
- “**registering an address in the hierarchal category**, wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network,” and
- “when a new keyword is searched for by using combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, a registration unit **generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword**, and **registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category**” (emphasis ours).

3. Claims 4-7

Claim 4 is directed to a search support device including a category menu storage unit and a search information generating unit.

A. In the Office Action mailed on August 10, 2006, page 4, claim 4's rejection is supported by stating that “in addition to claim 1, Related Art discloses ‘a category menu storage unit that stored a category menu in which predetermined categories are listed up’ (i.e., the information including the URL address of each registered homepage is registered as the list of registered bookmarks; see figure 3, page 4 lines 15-19).”

First, claim 1 and claim 4 recite different features and claim 4 does not depend from claim 1. Therefore, the reference to claim 1 is inappropriate.

Second, Applicant respectfully submits that lines 15-19 of page 4² from the "Background Art" section of the specification do not teach or suggest anything like a category menu in which predetermined categories are listed up. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 4 is not substantiated and non-compliant with 37 C.F.R §1.104(c)(2).

B. As per claim 3, the applied prior art fails to teach or suggest at least:

- "a category menu storage unit that stores a category menu in which predetermined hierarchical categories are listed up;"
- "a search information generating unit that generates search information associated with a hierarchical category selected from the category menu;"
- "predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network," and
- "when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category."

4. Claim 8

Claim 8 is directed to a search support method by which a search process for an address indicating a location of desired information on a network is requested based on search information associated with the desired information.

A. In the Office Action mailed on August 10, 2006, page 4, claim 8's rejection is supported by stating that "in addition to claim 1, Related Art discloses 'storing a category menu in which predetermined categories are listed up' (i.e., the information including the URL address of each registered homepage is registered as the list of registered bookmarks; see figure 3, page 4, lines 15-19)." Claim 1 is directed to a device, while claim 8 is directed to a method. It is inappropriate and self-serving to ignore all the particular recitations in claim 8, which are different from claim 1, particularly when on page 8 of the same Office Action, Applicant's arguments for patentability of claims 3, 4, 8-10 and 12 are disregarded because of different recitations. Further,

² "However, the information including the URL address of each registered homepage (hereinafter referred

the Office Action fails to put forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness as required by 37 C.F.R §1.104(c)(2).

B. Claim 8's language is misquoted in a manner in which it is skipped exactly a patentably distinguishing feature therein. That is, claim 8 recites "storing a category menu in which predetermined **hierarchical** categories are listed up." The cited prior art fails to teach the hierarchical organization of the categories. In the Office Action, the inaccurate citation of claim 8's language obscure a patentably distinguishing feature recited therein.

C. As per claim 8, the applied prior art fails to teach or suggest at least:

- "storing a category menu in which predetermined **hierarchical** categories are listed up;" and
- "generating search information associated with a **hierarchical** category selected from the category menu,"
- "predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a **keyword for searching for the address** indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network," and
- "when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to **be linked to an upper level category.**"

5. Claims 9-11

Claim 9 and 10 are directed to a recording medium which stores a program for a computer to perform an operation with a search support device, implemented on a client computer, that registered an address indicating a location of accessible information on a network.

A. In the Office Action mailed on August 10, 2006, page 5, the rejection of independent claims 9 and 10 are supported by stating that "in addition to claim 1, Related Art discloses 'a recording medium which stores a program for a computer to perform an operation' (see Figs. 1 to 3B, page 2, lines 26-33)." The indicated paragraph is reproduced below:

Referring now to FIGS. 1 to 3B, the processes for searching for a homepage supposedly containing desired information with a search engine and registering the bookmark for the homepage will

to as "homepage information") is registered as the list of registered bookmarks as shown in FIG. 3A."

be described. FIG. 1 is a flowchart of a series of processes for homepage search and bookmark registration. FIGS. 2A to 3B show examples of browser screens displayed on a display unit.

The indicated paragraph contains no reference and makes no suggestion or reference to a computer recording medium, and none of FIGS. 1-3B include anything that may prompt any suggestion of such a product.

B. Claim 1 is directed to a device, while claims 9 and 10 are directed to a "recording medium which stores a program for a computer to perform an operation with a search support device, implemented on a client computer, that registered an address indicating a location of accessible information on a network." It is inappropriate and self-serving to ignore all the particular recitations in claims 9 and 10, which are different from claim 1, particularly when on page 8 of the same Office Action, Applicant's arguments for patentability of claims 3, 4, 8-10 and 12 are disregarded because of different recitations. Further, the Office Action fails to put forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness as required by 37 C.F.R §1.104(c).

C. In citing the language of claims 9 and 10, the term "hierarchical" is skipped which misstates the recitation of a patentable distinguishing feature. Further the arguments lack any reference to the two "wherein" clauses recited in each of claims 9 and 10. Even if the citation from the "Background Art" section of the specification were relevant (which Applicant maintains it is not), ignoring a patentably distinguishing terms and features renders the rejections of claims 9 and 10 incomplete and inaccurate.

D. Claim 9 is patentable at least by reciting that the program recorded on the computer readable medium includes:

- "a procedure for classifying the address in accordance with a **hierarchical** category related to information that can be accessed at the address;"
- "a procedure for registering the address classified in accordance with the **hierarchical** category,"
- "predetermined search information is registered for each category, which **predetermined search information is used as a keyword** for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network," and
- "when a **new keyword** is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, a registration unit generates a **lower level category corresponding to the new keyword**, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be **linked to an upper level category**" (emphasis ours).

D. Claim 10 is patentable at least by reciting that the program recorded on the computer readable medium includes:

- “a procedure for storing a category menu in which predetermined hierarchical categories are listed up;”
- “a procedure for generating search information associated with a hierarchical category selected from the category menu,”
- “predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network,” and
- “when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.”

6. Claim 12

Claim 12 is directed to a method, implemented on a client computer, for searching for an address of desired information on a network based on search information associated with the desired information.

A. In the Office Action mailed on August 10, 2006, there is no argument as to why the prior art would contain any teaching or suggestion of “registering predetermined search information used as a keyword for searching for the address of the desired information on the network for each of a plurality of hierarchical categories into which information is classified” as recited therein. The lack of arguments relative to one of the two operations of the claim 12 method renders the final rejection incomplete and non-compliant with 37 C.F.R. §104(c)(2).

B. The Office Action alleges that lines 18-33 and 18-25, respectively from the “Background Art” section of the specification, teach or suggest (1) “wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword,” and “registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.” Applicant respectfully submit that the indicated paragraphs include nothing that would teach or suggest **hierarchical** registration and use of the information as recited in claim 12. Therefore claim 12 is patentable.

VIII. Conclusion and Summary

Applicants submit that claims 1-12 patentably distinguish over the prior art. Reversal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: Feb. 5, 2007

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IX. THE CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A search support device, implemented on a client computer, in which an address indicating a location of information accessible on a network is registered, the device comprising:

a search unit that determines a hierarchical category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu; and

a registration unit that registers an address in the hierarchal category, wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and

wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.

2. (ORIGINAL) The search support device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the registration unit registers the address designated for registration in the category containing the registered address when located at the same level as the address designated for registration.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A search support method, implemented on a client computer, by which an address indicating a location of information accessible on a network, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a hierarchical category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu; and

registering an address in the hierarchal category, wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and

wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A search support device, implemented on a client

computer, in which a search process for an address indicating a location of desired information on a network is requested based on search information associated with the information, the device comprising:

- a category menu storage unit that stores a category menu in which predetermined hierarchical categories are listed up; and

- a search information generating unit that generates search information associated with a hierarchical category selected from the category menu,

- wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and

- wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.

5. (ORIGINAL) The search support device as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:

- a display unit that displays an address in another form indicating the location of desired information detected based on the search information generated by the search information generating unit; and

- an address registration unit that registers the address in the category menu when the address indicates information that can be accessed.

6. (ORIGINAL) The search support device as claimed in claim 5, further comprising an address selection unit that selects the address registered in the category menu so as to make an access to the location of the desired information.

7. (ORIGINAL) The search support device as claimed in claim 5, further comprising an icon conversion unit that visually changes the category in which the address is registered by the address registration unit.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A search support method, implemented on a client computer, by which a search process for an address indicating a location of desired information on a network is requested based on search information associated with the desired information, the method comprising:

storing a category menu in which predetermined hierarchical categories are listed up;
and

generating search information associated with a hierarchical category selected from the category menu,

wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and

wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A recording medium which stores a program for a computer to perform an operation with a search support device, implemented on a client computer, that registered an address indicating a location of accessible information on a network, the program comprising:

a procedure for classifying the address in accordance with a hierarchical category related to information that can be accessed at the address; and

a procedure for registering the address classified in accordance with the hierarchical category,

wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and

wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A recording medium which stores a program for a computer to perform an operation with a search support device, implemented on a client computer, that requests a search process for an address indicating a location of desired information on a desired network based on search information associated with the desired information, the program comprising:

a procedure for storing a category menu in which predetermined hierarchical categories

are listed up; and

a procedure for generating search information associated with a hierarchical category selected from the category menu,

wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and

wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.

11. (ORIGINAL) The recording medium as claimed in claim 10, wherein the program further includes a procedure for generating the category menu.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method, implemented on a client computer, for searching for an address of desired information on a network based on search information associated with the desired information, the method comprising:

registering predetermined search information used as a keyword for searching for the address of the desired information on the network for each of a plurality of hierarchical categories into which information is classified; and

searching for the address of the desired information based on the registered predetermined search information when a hierarchical category is selected,

wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.

X. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

Not applicable.

XI. RELATED PROCEEDING APPENDIX

Not applicable.